

Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY-

MINNEAPOLIS

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Gulliver's Travels

Story by
Jonathan Swift

Edit by
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Gulliver's Travels was first presented by Seattle Children's Theatre for the Summer Season.
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Production Notes:

The play takes place in the 18th century. It calls for imaginative staging as Gulliver goes to fantastic lands and meets strange creatures. In the original SCT production some scenes were performed simultaneously, using puppets and actors to get across the differences in scale between Gulliver, the little people and the giants. Puppets and prop pieces were used to represent the floating island and the Blufescan warship. It is important to find active transitions between the scenes.

Cast:

The original SCT production was done in two parts, with two separate casts for Act I and Act II. There were twelve actors in the first act, and fourteen in the second act, about evenly split between male and female. Twelve actors is the minimum number for this play (six male, six female). The cast is as follows:

GULLIVER, the traveling doctor

PEOPLE OF THE SIGN OF THE STAR TAVERN:

RATHSEN, an angry person
SAMUEL, Gulliver's young son
PRAIDEN, a proud person
SLOOTHINARD, a lazy person
MARY, Gulliver's wife
GRIDLEY, the greedy owner of the tavern
ENEVEYAN, a jealous person
DRANIC, a thirsty person
FODAN, a gluttonous person
FEYEREINA, a frightened person
LAIANIC, a dishonest person

PEOPLE OF GULLIVER'S SHIP

CAPTAIN SWIFT
SAILORS
SEBASTIAN

PEOPLE OF LILLIPUT

EMPEROR
EMPRESS
ADMIRAL SKYRESH BOLGOLAM
LORD FLIMNAP, TREASURER
SLAMSA, A SCIENTIST
BLANCAM, A SERVANT
HURGO
LILLIPUTIAN CAPTAIN

HERALD
CROWD (LILLIPUTIANS 1-4)
BLUFESCAN CAPTAIN
BLUFESCAN LOOKOUT
BLUFESCAN SAILOR

PEOPLE OF BRODBINGNAG (THE LAND OF THE GIANTS)

RAT (THE SPLAKNUCK)
GLUMDALCLITCH (THE FARMER'S YOUNG DAUGHTER)
FARMER
GIANT CROWD
QUEEN
DWARF
KING
GIANT SCIENTIST
WASPS
COOK ONE
COOK TWO

PEOPLE OF LAPUTA

SERVANT
NOBLE ONE
KING
MINISTER
ADVISER
LAPUTAN NOBLES

PEOPLE OF LAGUDA

LAGUDAN 1
LAGUDAN 2
LAGUDAN 3
LAGUDAN 4

STRUDDLEBRUG 1
STRUDDLEBRUG 2
STRUDDLEBRUG 3
STRUDDLEBRUG 4

PEOPLE OF YAHOO-HOUHYNHM LAND

4 MALE YAHOS
4 FEMALE YAHOS
MASTER HORSE
PROSECUTOR HORSE
JUDGE HORSE
DEFENSE HORSE
OTHER HORSES

SCENE 1. THE SIGN OF THE STAR TAVERN.

IN NEAR-DARKNESS, A SONG BEGINS SLOWLY, GAINING STRENGTH AS IT GOES ALONG. THE SINGERS MOVE WITH THE MUSIC, BUT THE LIGHTS COME UP GRADUALLY, NOT ON THEM, BUT ON GULLIVER WHO STANDS STIFFLY APART FROM THEM.

ALL EXCEPT GULLIVER (SINGING TO THE
TUNE OF "TARANTELLA")

GULLIVER, GULLIVER
GULLIVER, GULLIVER

GULLIVER, GULLIVER
GULLIVER, GULLIVER

GULLIVER, GULLIVER

GULLIVER, GULLIVER
SPEAK TO US, GULLIVER

LEMUEL, IF YOU WILL
TELL US JUST WHAT YOU WILL

TELL US OF LITTLE ONES
TELL US OF GIANTS

TELL US WHY YOU ARE NOW SO DEFIANT

GULLIVER, GULLIVER, GULLIVER, GULLIVER
GULLIVER, GULLIVER, GULLIVER, GULLIVER

TELL US YOUR STORY
SPEAK OF YOUR TRAVELS

SPIN US A YARN THAT WON'T COME UNRAVELED
WE BEG YOU TO SPEAK TO US, GULLIVER.

(During the song, lights come up on DR. LEMUEL GULLIVER. The carousing singers we see only dimly. He is stiffly, formally though not expensively dressed. His hands are held strangely, in fists in front of him, with a strange air of mingled expectation, fortitude and resignation. He is almost perfectly still, and when he does move, it is with a sort of pawing of the ground with his feet and an equine inclination of his head, accompanied by a genteel snort. As the song ends, the lights widen to include the other patrons of The Sign of the Star, a pub. They are staring at GULLIVER.)

SLOOTHINARD

Look at him. Just look at him. He hasn't moved from there all day.

FODAN

(Who eats while talking) Neither have you. (Burps)

DRANIC

Give me another, Gridley.

GRIDLEY

Pay first.

(GRIDLEY pays DRANIC, the owner of the tavern, who snatches the coin greedily.)

LAIANIC

He used to be a physician. Doctor Lemuel Gulliver. This tavern used to be his office.

SLOOTHINARD

Him, a doctor?

ENEVEYAN

And now he's a madman. Sees little people, giants, an island that floats in the sky. More strange stories than you could shake a stick at.

RATHSEN

I'm willing to try that. (he shakes a stick a stick at GULLIVER.) Tell us your story, you.

(GULLIVER snorts disdainfully)

PRAIDEN

He lives with horses.

RATHSEN

With horses?

PRAIDEN

In a stable. Eats oats with horses and sleeps in the hay. And mutters in his sleep about those little people and giants.

RATHSEN

Ha, ha, Hey, Dobbin. Maybe he only speaks horse. Maybe that's why he doesn't talk. Hey, there (RATHSEN whinnies at GULLIVER, who turns to him sharply.)

FEYEREINA

AAAH! Help! Don't provoke him. Who knows what he might do. They say it's always the quiet ones, don't they?

PRAIDEN

I can't abide the way he looks at us.

RATHSEN

Talk, you. Tell us why you live with animals.

(Dranic holds up a coin)

DRANIC

Another one, Gridley.

GRIDLEY

Coming up. Hey Molly!

(MARY enters)

MARY

What is it?

GRIDLEY

Bring out a . . .

(MARY gasps)

What?

MARY

You! (She stares at GULLIVER)

GRIDLEY

Molly?

GULLIVER

Mar-Yahoo, Yahoo!

FEYEREINA

She knows him! She knows him!

MARY

You! (she throws her dishrag at him.)

SLOOTHINARD

Looks like the show's begun!

ENEVEYAN

A reunion?

MARY

Lemuel! How could you do this to me—to us? I have to work like a plow horse for this hard-fisted miser.

GRIDLEY

Miser? I found you starving in this place and gave you a job out of pity. I even let you bunk in the back with your boy.

GULLIVER

Boy?

PRAIDEN

Oh, oh, a real word. He speaks, he speaks!

MARY

And he writes, too. (she takes out a tear-stained letter.)

"Dear Wife,

I am in England once more. But I will not see you. The whole race of yahoos disgusts me and you are a she-yahoo.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lemuel Gulliver"

After ten years, this is what I get from you? (she crumples the letter and throws it at him.)

Why did you come here?

(SAMUEL enters)

SAMUEL

Ma?

GULLIVER

Boy.

MARY

Samuel. Get out of here.

GULLIVER

My . . . son?

MARY

I don't want you to talk to him.

GULLIVER

For a young yahoo, there may be hope.

MARY

No! Keep away.

FODAN

Wait. Wait. Don't let her take him away. Keep him talking. Here's a chance to get him to tell us his story. From the . . . from the horse's mouth.

(The patrons all laugh. They keep MARY from SAMUEL as GULLIVER approaches him.)

LAIANIC

Dr. Gulliver. Why not tell your story? Don't you want to let people know the truth?

GULLIVER

Truth? What do Yahoos know of the truth? Or reason. I will not provide you entertainment.

MARY

Then why, why come here, Lemuel?

GULLIVER

To watch you Yahoos—to see if there were any hope of reforming your vices. I have seen no hope at all, untill . . . (he approaches closer to SAMUEL, who does not back away.)

SAMUEL

Yes?

GULLIVER

I have never met you, but I am your . . . father.

SAMUEL

My father?

GULLIVER

I will tell you the truth. The truth about where I have been. Not for you! Not for you Yahoos! Nothing will induce you to abandon your vices, for you are made wholly of vice. For him. For him, yes, for him there may be hope. Listen, young Yahoo.

MARY

He has a name. He is . . .

GULLIVER

Years ago, I lived with that yahoo - your mother. She was my . . . wife. I was a doctor; a doctor with no patients.

(Flashback effects. Scene change music. The actors rearrange the scene into a doctor's office.)

SCENE 2. YEARS EARLIER. THE OFFICE OF DR. LEMUEL GULLIVER

(The scene change leaves GULLIVER alone. Everything changes around him, but he does not move. But his manner is different. He is human, anxious, waiting. MARY enters. She is pregnant.)

GULLIVER

Yes, madam, may I . . . Oh. Mary.

MARY

You don't seem happy to see me.

GULLIVER

I thought you might be a patient.

MARY

I see. Lemuel, there is a man . . .

GULLIVER

I am a skilled physician . . .

MARY

Lemuel, a man . . .

GULLIVER

. . . but I have no patients, and no money left! And every day, I see rich physicians pass by this office in fine carriages. Every day. Do they have more skill than I?

MARY

Lemeul, the man says ...

GULLIVER

They do. Not in treating the sick or healing the injured. But they have skills of deceit and manipulation. They cure their patients of imaginary diseases while inflicting real damage.

MARY

It is not a perfect world. But we must live in it, Lemuel.

GULLIVER

I know.

MARY

Lemuel, there is a man outside who says . . .

GULLIVER

He says that he is here to take me on board ship.

MARY

Can it be true?

GULLIVER

I am going to sea.

MARY

To sea!

GULLIVER

I will be ship's surgeon. Where my patients must come to me. And I will provide them with health, not flattery and narcotics.

MARY

But we have a child coming.

GULLIVER

There is no other reasonable course. I sail with the tide for Van Diemen's land.

MARY

And I remain, to wonder when and if you will return?

GULLIVER

Mary. It is not the dark ages. This is 1703. I am not sailing off the edge of a flat world.

(CAPTAIN SWIFT enters)

GULLIVER

Captain.

CAPTAIN SWIFT

Beg Pardon, Ma'am, Dr. Gulliver, but the tide waits for no man. The ship is ready.

(GULLIVER hoists a packed bag)

MARY

And your bag is packed, I see.

(GULLIVER starts to leave.)

Lemuel, this is heartless, this is . . .

GULLIVER

This is the only reasonable course of action open to me.

SCENE 3. WEEKS LATER. A STORM AT SEA.

(There is thunder, lightning, high winds, rain, everything. Sailors climb about frantically. GULLIVER is frightened, but trying to deal with the situation.)

SAILORS

The sea! The sea!

CAPTAIN SWIFT

Haul aft, men! Haul aft! We'll ride her out yet! Go below, Lemuel.

GULLIVER

I can bear a hand!

CAPTAIN SWIFT

Then away aloft, man! Reef the maincourse.

(GULLIVER climbs into the rigging)

LOOKOUT

Rocks on the port side! Rocks to leeward!

CAPTAIN SWIFT

Hell and death! Take the wheel, Sebastian, keep her steady.
Where away?

(a sailor gives the captain a telescope.)

LOOKOUT

Captain, there! Closer! A biscuit toss off the port bow!

CAPTAIN SWIFT

Helm! Put before the wind! We'll run clear! Starboard tack.

SEBASTIAN

Aye, aye. O Christ! We've missed stays!

(There is a huge crash.)

SAILORS

We've struck!

(There is an awful tearing sound.)

SEBASTIAN

We've split! We've split! She doesn't answer the helm.

SAILORS

(in a continuing, confused roar) Abandon Ship!

CAPTAIN SWIFT

Maintain order, men. We must lower the boats.

GULLIVER

Be reasonable! We've time to man the boats. Be reasonable.

SEBASTIAN

Reasonable! You fool of a doctor. We are each of us facing a
watery grave! Every man for himself!

(GULLIVER falls into the water, thrown there by
Sebastian's panic. The storm continues.)

SCENE 4. THE NEXT MORNING. ON THE SHORES OF LILLIPUT

(GULLIVER, LOOKOUT, CAPTAIN, HURGO, ARMY, HERALD,
EMPEROR, LILLIPUTIANS)

(GULLIVER is lying on the beach unconscious. He is tied up with thousands of tiny strings, bound hand and foot. The LILLIPUTIANS army is ranged around him, at what they hope is a safe distance. After some time GULLIVER begins to stir.)

CAPTAIN

The mountain moves, lord, what shall I do?

(GULLIVER roars in frustration.)

HURGO

Yah! Shoot! Shoot!

CAPTAIN

Fire!

(The LILLIPUTIAN army shoots arrows at Gulliver. He roars in pain and struggles to free himself.)

HURGO

Man-Mountain, hear us, you cannot escape! We fear you not. We come in peace. Shoot again, Captain!

CAPTAIN

Fire!

(GULLIVER is again struck with arrows. Again he struggles to free himself.)

HURGO

Accept the hand of friendship we extend! Shoot!

CAPTAIN

Fire!

(GULLIVER is shot again. He continues struggling.)

LOOKOUT

Golbasto approaches!

(The EMPEROR enters. The army bows down before him.)

ARMY

Emperor!

HERALD

Golbasto doth approach. Golbasto Momarem Evlame Mu Lee Ullly Gue has come! Most Mighty Emperor of Lilliput, delight and terror of the universe has come!

His dominions extend five thousand blustrugs. Monarch of monarchs, taller than the sons of men; whose feet press down to the center of the earth, whose head strikes against the sun. Hail Golbasto Momarem Evlame Mully Ullly Gue!

ALL

Hail Golbasto Momarem Evlame Mully Ullly Gue!

(Astonished, GULLIVER ceases struggling. The HERALD climbs up on to GULLIVER)

HERALD

Hail Golbasto Momarem Evlame Mully Ullly Gue!

GULLIVER

What? Oh, oh. Yes, of course. Hail Gol . . . Gol

HERALD

Golbasto

GULLIVER

Golbasto

HERALD

Momarem

GULLIVER

Momarem

HERALD

Evlame

GULLIVER

Evlame

HERALD

Mully

GULLIVER

Mully

HERALD

Ullly

GULLIVER

Ullly

HERALD

Gue

GULLIVER

Gue

EMPEROR

We name you Quinbus Flestrim. Man-mountain in the ancient tongue. Hear us, Quinbus. We come to you in friendship. We do not fear you. Your bulk is nothing compared to the extent and majesty of our empire. We have mountains far greater than you, trees that would extend past the height of your waist. We regard you as a guest in our dominions, to be treated with respect and courtesy. This is the decree of the emperor!

ALL

Narcascalone Degul!

EMPEROR

Quinbus Flestrim, you have leave to speak. We await your reply.

GULLIVER

I . . . I am very thirsty. And hungry. If it pleases your majesty, could I have food and drink?

(The LILLIPUTIANS erupt in a confused commotion. They had not thought of having to feed him. They are terrified lest he eat every scrap of food in the kingdom.)

CROWD

Feed him! Impossible! A creature of that size! There will be no food left! An entire cow would make a mere mouthful for him.

EMPEROR

We have anticipated your needs. You are a guest and shall be fed. Hurgo! Make it so!

HURGO

Make it so, Captain!

CAPTAIN

Break out the rations. There, bring them up by his armpit.
Heave!

ARMY

Heave! Heave-ho! Up the ladder, down the hatch.

(They feed GULLIVER, pouring food and drink down his
throat)

EMPEROR

Hurgo, a word in your ear.

HURGO

My emperor?

EMPEROR

Replace these ropes with chains, mount him on carts, and haul
him to the capital. We will assemble the council.

**SCENE 5. THE NEXT DAY. IN THE THRONE ROOM OF THE EMPEROR OF
LILLIPUT**

(HERALD, EMPEROR, EMPRESS, FLIMNAP, SKYRESH, FLIMNAP,
GULLIVER, SLAMSA, LILLIPUTIAN NOBLES)

(The EMPEROR and empress are seated on their thrones. The
HERALD holds a long ceremonial pole. All the nobility of
Lilliput are assembled before the monarch.)

BLANCAM

The star chamber council of Golbasto Momarem Evlame Mully Uully
Gue is assembling. The creeping and leaping shall now begin. Let
all who would advise the emperor approach!

(The nobles approach the throne, by repeatedly either
creeping under or leaping over the ceremonial stick. Each
time they leap over it they exclaim. "I shall perform great
feats for my emperor. Each time they creep under it they
cry "I humble myself before my emperor." Some of the nobles
(the Slamecksan) are in very high heels, which makes it
difficult to get under the stick. Some are in very low
heels (the Tramecksans), which makes it more difficult to
get over. These two groups regard each other with mutual
hostility and cheer on their allies. The EMPEROR and
BLANCAM are barefoot. The EMPRESS wears a long dress, so
her shoes cannot be seen, but she limps a bit. The EMPEROR
and EMPRESS applaud their efforts and exclaim with pleasure

at the feats of greatest dexterity. They also proclaim "dismissed" when any of the nobles stumble, or touch the pole. Those dejected nobles leave the court. At the end of the ceremony, FLIMNAP (treasurer, a Tramecksan) and SKYRESH BOLGOLAM (Lord High Admiral, a Slamecksan) have survived.)

BLANCAM

The creeping and leaping has ended. The members of the star chamber council are:

Lord Flimnap, most honored member of the order of Clumglum, and Secretary of his Majesty's Treasury. (FLIMNAP bows)

Skyresh Bolgolam, Lord High Admiral of the Realm. (SKYRESH bows)

EMPEROR

My advisers, time is short. The Man-mountain approaches this palace as we speak. I desire you all shall give your best advice.

FLIMNAP

I can only think that your majesty means advice on how best to destroy the thing.

EMPRESS

Destroy the creature? It has done us no harm.

FLIMNAP

Your tenderness becomes you infinitely, majesty. But as treasurer, I tell you that in a week this thing will eat every scrap of food in this empire.

SKYRESH

Lord Flimnap. This creature could destroy the Blufescans. He could end the Bigendian scourge forever, uniting the world under our rule.

EMPEROR

But will he obey our commands?

EMPRESS

We know so little of him. What is he?

EMPEROR

I believe the royal society for scientific investigation has prepared a report. Blancam! Call in Slamsa.

BLANCAM

Slamsa Gredansa of the Royal Society.

(SLAMSA enters. Barefoot.)

SLAMSA

Your majesties. Ministers. We have examined the available evidence on the Man-Mountain, and taken detailed observations and measurements of him. He is twelve times the height of one your adult subjects, majesty, and consequently, in weight and volume, we estimate him to be 1,728 times as great.

EMPEROR

1,728.

SLAMSA

Yes.

SKYRESH

And did you measure the height of his shoe heels?

(the council erupts.)

FLIMNAP

That is a provocative question, your Majesty. How can we avoid factionalism in your dominions if it is to be carried into your very council chamber?

SKYRESH

Nonsense! It is a question of fact. We must have proper information on this point.

EMPEROR

I must agree. Well, Slamsa?

SLAMSA

We found no shoes. If he had been wearing them, they must have been lost when he fell.

EMPEROR

Fell? Where did he come from?

SLAMSA

Oh, he fell from the moon.

EMPEROR

Fell from the moon?

SLAMSA

Oh yes. There can be no doubt about that. It was the one point on which all your scientific advisers were unanimous. The position of the moon, his general disorientation, all the evidence combines to the point where I can state with certainty that he fell from the moon.

SKYRESH

And on the moon, do they eat eggs?

SLAMSA

I do not know.

SKYRESH

We must ask him.

FLIMNAP

Surely not. The risk, if he should be a Bigendian . . .

SKYRESH

What is it you fear, Flimnap, that the Man-Mountain will prove a Big-Endian, or that you will be discovered as one?

FLIMNAP

I came for a council, not an inquisition. I am no Big-Endian.

SKYRESH

Do you eat soft-boiled eggs at all? Or do you hide behind egg abstention, concealing your true . . .

FLIMNAP

That is slander. Fetch an egg. I will eat it before you all in this council. Merely because I do not publicly devour twelve a day . . .

SKYRESH

Scratch a Tramecksan, find a Blufescan.

EMPEROR

Enough! I have forbidden that word in my council. There are no Tramecksans or Slamecksans here, only Lilliputians.

SKYRESH

Nobly put, Your Majesty. (SKYRESH points to FLIMNAP's ridiculously high heels.) But look at those. It is a provocation, a clear provocation.

FLIMNAP

And are slippers and mocassins proper court attire? Because we are Little-Endians, does it mean that all the dignity of our ancestors must be thrown away?

SKYRESH

You refer to the corrupt customs of your Bigendian ancestors. You would take us back, back to the darkness and superstition of the past back to the . . .

EMPRESS

Stop! Oh, Stop, Please stop it. Why must we struggle so, why must we fight? Why not compromise? Both the old and the new are vital to the health of our dominions. And so I say - why cannot we all unite. Why cannot we all get along?

(She lifts her dress to reveal one high heel and one low heel.)

EMPEROR

I trust my wife's noble example will permanently silence your squabbling, gentlemen. Well done, my dear. A noble example to us all. Lord Flimnap, Admiral Skyresh is correct. We must put the question to the Man-Mountain.

FLIMNAP

Then we must prepare for the worst, your Majesty. If he should prove a Big-Indian, we must destroy it.

EMPEROR

You are correct, Lord Flimnap. Slamsa, have you prepared any plans against that unpleasant possibility?

SLAMSA

Yes, your Majesty. While the Man-mountain is enormously powerful, he is also dependent upon us—upon you, your majesty—for all the necessities of life.

FLIMNAP

So we could poison his food!

SLAMSA

But there is a danger that a corpse of such enormous size would putrefy and decay before it could be disposed of, spreading disease throughout the land, so, in combination with a gradual and slow-acting poison we could also lessen the amount of food he receives day by day, to reduce his bulk.

SKYRESH

Starve and poison him!

FLIMNAP

Which would steadily reduce the cost to the treasury even while we dispose of our problem.

EMPRESS

Oh, how horrid! How can you make such cruel plans?

EMPEROR

Your tenderness does you credit, my dear. But if he should prove a Bigen . . .

(GULLIVER'S Head appears at a window.)

GULLIVER

If he should prove a what?

CROWD

The Man-mountain. The Man Mountain!

EMPEROR

(going out on a balcony to address GULLIVER) Man-mountain! You have arrived in good time. Welcome, heartily welcome to our royal capital. Let the trumpets of welcome be sounded!

HERALD

let the trumpets of Welcome be sounded.

(Trumpets sound.)

EMPEROR

And now, I shal swear eternal friendship to you, as we have been discussing in this council. Lumos kelmin pesos desmar lon emposo.

GULLIVER

Yes, Ah . . . Luman kielbasa . . . uh, I, in return, swear to loyally repay your kindness.

EMPEROR

Man-mountain, there are a few questions we have for you.

GULLIVER

Yes?

EMPEROR

In the (pointing up) place where you come from. Are there eggs?

GULLIVER

Eggs? Yes, your majesty, of course.

(enormous consternation in the court)

EMPEROR

And do you, do you eat these eggs.

GULLIVER

Oh, yes. Hen's eggs. And sometimes the eggs of other fowl as well.

(even more consternation)

EMPEROR

Soft-boiled?

GULLIVER

Sometimes.

EMPEROR

And—and how do you open them?

GULLIVER

Well, we tap them to break the shell, with a spoon or a knife and then cut ---

EMPEROR

No, no! Which end? Which end?

GULLIVER

What?

EMPEROR

Which end of the egg do you open? Which end?

GULLIVER

I . . . I suppose it varies. Some people . . .

EMPEROR

Not some people! You! Which end do you open?

GULLIVER

I . . . I open the . . . the smaller end.

(There is enormous relief and rejoicing. The people of Lilliput, including the court, sing the Little-Endian anthem.)

ALL LILLIPUTIANS

LITTLE END

LITTLE END

THE EGG SHALL BE OPENED THERE

LITTLE END

LITTLE END

AND NONE IN THIS REALM SHALL DARE

TO BREAK THE SHELL AT WHAT NATURE MEANT
TO BE THE BASE OF THE EGG. NO DENT
FROM FORK NOR SPOON NOR BREAKFAST KNIFE
SHALL THERE BE SEEN—I PLEDGE MY LIFE.

LITTLE END

LITTLE END

THE EGG SHALL BE OPENED THERE

EMPEROR

My people. Lilliputians all. You have heard from the prodigious lips of the Man-mountain himself that he abjures the Big-Endian heresy. That, like us, he abides by the true Little-Endian faith. He opens his soft boiled eggs from the smaller end.

(cheering)

HERALD

The Man-mountain shall be maintained by the royal treasury. He shall have food and drink enough to support 1,729 people.

GULLIVER

I am overcome by your generosity, your majesty. If there is any service I can do you that lies within my power, I shall do it.

EMPEROR

Well spoken, Man-mountain. I take you at your word. I have here a scroll enumerating just such services. Herald!

HERALD(reading)

The Man-mountain shall be our ally against the heretical Big-Endians of the Island of Blufescu, whose Warship is preparing even now to invade our dominions and put our people to the sword.

EMPEROR

With the help of the man-mountain, we shall renew the war against Blufescu and aid us in destroying that country and all its inhabitants. Big-Endianism shall be no more!

(Cheering. GULLIVER is a bit taken aback)